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I am writing to express my complete opposition to SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874. These bills, all of which incorporate some sort of forced regionalization, are bad for students and infringe on the rights of local municipalities.

Reputable studies show that students thrive in smaller environments where they can receive more individualized attention and that regionalization saves few, if any, tax dollars. In the 2011 study, *In Consolidation of Schools and Districts: What the Research Says and What it Means*, the authors state write, "Research on the effects of contemporary consolidation suggests that new consolidation is likely to result in neither greater efficiency nor better instructional outcomes - especially when it results from state policy that implements large-scale forced consolidation."

Students of all ages learn in different ways and at different rates. The way we learn is directly connected to the environment in which we grow. Having administrators who can tailor their curriculum to the needs of their particular students allows the district to better serve the needs of its specific community.

Furthermore, none of them truly address the real elephant in the room, which is Connecticut's enormous pension liability. What they do, is harm students without saving any significant money for the state. These bills are the equivalent of fighting a forest fire with a watering can. I urge the members of the education committee vote no on all three of these proposed bills.

Sincerely,

Gabriela Beecher